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SOCER WORLD

THE VOICE OF AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

15c

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Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL CHOCOLATES

BELOW: Despite this spectacular dive, Hakoah goalie Fuzes was beaten all the way by Giacometti's 25-yard freekick last Sunday. BOTTOM: Brian Smith of Pan Hellenic comes out second best in this clash with King. The ball rolled wide of Prague's goal.



PRAGUE IN BOX SEAT BEFORE LAST ROUND

The "dream final" to the Sydney round-robin, an APIA v. Pan Hellenic clash is no longer a possibility.

These are the Grand Final possibilities:

- Prague are in — unless they lose 3-0 or more to Hakoah in which case Hakoah are in the final in their place. The odds against this: at least 10/1.
- The winner of the APIA v. Pan Hellenic clash is in the final — absolutely regardless of the other result.
- Should APIA and Pan Hellenic draw — Pan Hellenic are out on goal average.
- Pan Hellenic can reach the final only if they win.

The possibilities for a final pairing are Prague v. APIA, Prague v. Pan Hellenic, Hakoah v. APIA or Hakoah v. Pan Hellenic — or even a Prague v. Hakoah.

Hakoah's position seems the most hopeless.

One last, interesting possibility: if Hakoah win by one goal and APIA draw, the two will finish up dead level on points and goal averages and will have to play-off for the right to accompany Prague to the Grand Final.

Split won't help on Show Day

From BOB LOW in Melbourne

The almost forgotten Australia Cup springs back to life next Thursday, September 26 (Show Day) when the two outstanding quarter-final games of the West Section are scheduled to be played at different grounds. Matches and venues are:

Juventus v. Azzurri (WA) at Olympic Park.
Hakoah v. Croatia at Middle Park.

The winner of the Juventus v. Azzurri game meets Hakoah (NSW) in one semifinal while Prague will clash with the winner of the Hakoah v. Croatia match.

In the Show Day games Juventus will have to step warily against the West Australian team who have already beaten West Adelaide, Hellas and South Melbourne Hellas away from home in the competition.

Croatia should account for Hakoah and earn the right to meet Prague.

I don't pretend, with the veil of secrecy which surrounds much of our soccer arrangements, to know why the two matches could not have been played as a double-header and thereby save considerable overhead expenses.

But I have been told unofficially that the three Melbourne contestants failed to agree on this proposal.

Normally on Show Day soccer cannot expect more than a mediocre crowd at even a top attraction.

To divide the games on a two-venue basis is almost financial suicide.

SOCER WORLD, as always, will continue publication until December.

In addition to all our regular features spread over eight pages we will cover the following events in detail in coming weeks:

- The Olympic Games in Mexico with on-the-spot reports from our news editor, Lou Gautier.

- The Australian Cup quarterfinals in the western zone, the semifinals, which are to be played on a home-and-away basis in Sydney and Melbourne on October 13 and 20, and the final.

Starting soon we will also review the performances of all First and Second Division clubs this season.

The amateurs and juniors won't be forgotten either. Keith Gilmour will survey the metropolitan junior associations in turn, starting next week with Ku-ring-gai.

We also plan increased coverage of the Melbourne scene by Bob Low, while Allan Crisp will keep readers up-to-date with all the Adelaide news.

Make sure you don't miss out on Australia's only soccer newspaper.

Take out a yearly subscription for \$8.00 or a half-yearly subscription for \$4.00, if you can't make it to a newsagent or to a match.

You just can't afford to miss the exciting coverage we have in store for you until our annual five-week summer recess.



Argentine students "cramming" for Manchester exams

From CARLOS DE OLIVEIRA —

On September 25, Manchester United will fly to Buenos Aires to do battle for the Intercontinental Cup.

Their opponents in the final will be the South American champions, Argentina's Estudiantes de la Plata.

Estudiantes de la Plata surprised South America by winning this year's South American Champions' Cup against much more fancied fellow Argentinian, Brazilian and Uruguayan opponents.

By beating Palmeiras of Sao Paulo in the South American final, Estudiantes qualified to meet Manchester United, the European Cup winners, for the Intercontinental Cup, symbol of world club supremacy.

The return match will be played at Old Trafford in October.

In the event of a tie (goal-average is not taken into account) the deciding play-off will be staged in Europe, last year's winners, Racing Buenos Aires, also of Argentina, having had the benefit of staging the play-off in neighbouring Uruguay.

La Plata, contrary to popular belief, is not a suburb of Buenos Aires, but a city in its own right, some 30 miles from the Argentinian capital.

The city has more than a million and a half inhabitants, and is famous for its University and paleontology museum.

It is because of the university that the club was called Estudiantes ("students" in English), though only three of the present-day squad are in fact academicals.

The club owns a huge property, called the Estudiantes Country Club, four miles from the city.

Besides soccer fields, there is an athletic track, a cycling track, a golf course, 18 tennis courts and 600 bungalows for club members.

The club membership is 80,000 — all of whom pay the equivalent of \$85 a year to enjoy the club's amenities.

BIRTHDAY

Estudiantes celebrated their 63rd birthday last month, but it was only in the early 1950's that they took over from their local rivals, Gimnasia y Esgrima (which literally translated means "Gymnastics and Fencing") as La Plata's glamor club.

That year, the now deposed Peron government forced the club to reorganise itself from top to bottom because its affairs were in a shambles and the club was showing a huge loss.

By 1956, after the soccer team had parted with 18 players to recoup some of their losses, new elections for office bearers were held and the club adopted a new constitution.

By that time the team had been relegated to Argentina's Second Division competition (the "Honor")



Bobby Charlton, seen here against Queensland last year, will be one of Manchester United's trump cards against Estudiantes.

ADELAIDE LADS DID WELL ON NSW TOUR

The South Australia-NSW Combined High Schools series is proving such a success that it is a pity that Victoria cannot produce school soccer of a similar high standard, and join in the matches.

Although NSW won the recent series with two wins and a draw in the three interstate games, they were more than lucky to win the second game, which was the vital game of the tour.

South Australia opened their itinerary with a 4-0 win over Punchbowl High, no mean feat for a start.

Before over 1,000 spectators in Newcastle, South Australia, with goals from M. Kavalcenti and S. Ashton, defeated Newcastle CHS 2-1.

At Adamstown, SA (S. Ashton, J. Artz) drew 2-2 with NSW (T. Howell, T. Smyth), in the best game of the series.

At the Marks Field NSW 2 (K. Scully, G. Byes) defeated SA 1 (M. Powell).

Greg Byes came good with a vengeance with three

picture goals at Bankstown, where NSW defeated a tiring SA 3-1.

The SA boys who impressed most were Joe Costello, John Cichinski, a very capable centre-half, and Henry Kolecki, who improved his play as the series went on.

Earlier in the season, Kolecki had represented SA against Cardiff City.

For NSW the honors went to John Hargreaves (Punchbowl), Ron O'Hearn (Newcastle), Glen Miranda (Fort Street), and Greg Byes (East Hills).

A great interstate tour from both a football and education viewpoint, and one which NSW at least will want repeated again and again.

— Keith Gilmour

Smalltalk

Occasionally we get some curious letters from club officials. Mainly when something displeases them. Otherwise they stay mute, readily absorbing praise and compliments.

Prague secretary, George Warner, wrote us a crisp note recently, "correcting" our errors. Said Warner in his letter:

"For the benefit of your readers (including interstate, where our NSW system is not used), may I bring to your notice the proper terminology of our competitions and competition winners."

- Our two rounds competition is not 'the champion-ship', but the 'Premiership Competition'.

- The leading team at the end of the 'Premiership Competition' is not the 'Federation champion', nor the 'Sydney champion', but the 'Federation Premier'.

- The round robin series and the Grand Final form the 'championship fixtures' (or simply the championship).
- The winner of the 'championship fixtures' (the winners of the Grand Final) is not the 'Grand Final winner' but the 'Federation champion'."

So far so good. We appreciate George Warner's interest — but cannot share his anxiety. Early this year we decided that we would call our main competition the "championship" — and stuck to it.

Why? Simply because we thought that the old nomenclature which spoke of inane "minor premiers" and "major premiers" and other nonsense was a sad heritage from the rugby codes with which we shouldn't have anything to do.

We also felt — and still do — that soccer in Australia should use the traditional and worldwide terminology of the sport instead of aping the utterly meaningless rugby expressions.

What the officially accepted terminology of the Federation is, is their business. If they don't see the need to streamline their thinking and parlance, we can't help that.

Warner and the Federation will have a hard time convincing any of our readers, for example, that the 22 rounds of competition is the "premiership" while the ensuing short round-robin is the "championship".

We have, over the years, suggested several times the adoption of the words "champion" and "championship" but, for some mysterious reason, never had any reaction. So we changed the names ourselves — at least as far as this newspaper is concerned. And that, of course, is well within our rights.

One more thing. George Warner worries about the logic of our attitude but he is not perturbed that —

- We have a "semifinal" at the end of the championship ("premiership") which is not a semifinal at all but a round-robin;

- Despite the fact that this series is not a knockout tournament but one where points and goals determine the placings, extra-time is played if the result is a draw after 90 minutes.

May we suggest, with due respect, that George Warner and other purists start worrying about these insanely illogical aspects rather than our terminology.

Which, by the way, is the correct soccer terminology — whether the Federation constitution adopts it or not.

— MIKE RENWICK

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N.S.W. boys' trip a roaring success

— By DAVID CHILDS —

The results of the 1968 visit to New Zealand by the NSW Under-16 team will show eight games, eight wins.

This in itself is quite an achievement and one which should not go unnoticed or even taken for granted.

The standard of football of the New Zealand players is as high as in Australia, and the administration even higher.

From the moment we set foot in New Zealand, generous hospitality was evident as well as a genuine desire to make our visit successful, both on and off the field.

We were extremely lucky in selecting players willing to learn and eager to win.

It was noticeable to us that we were referred to as Aussies and that our results would reflect on the standard of Australian soccer and not so much that of the State.

Playing-wise, we could not have achieved better results even in prayer: 31 goals were scored by 12 players and we conceded only seven.

All games were played in fine spirit and not one player from any team was cautioned by referees.

DIVIDENDS

As any player of note will point out, to tour another country for a period of 18 days means a lot of work and preparation before departure if you intend winning.

The State team played six games and held 12 training periods before leaving and this paid handsome dividends for us.

We left as a team, not as strangers and also had the advantage of a playing combination.

We were lucky to have a two-day break on our arrival and again we took advantage of training.

Laurie Hegyes, the coach, gained the admiration of the New Zealanders everywhere we went with his training sessions.

It was quite a sight to see 18 track-suited players (in bright red) running through their paces — and ask any of the players if it was just for "show."

As well as training the players from the State, Hegyes was asked by the N.Z. FA to assist, if possible, with local teams.

This he did and it was nothing to spend up to two hours at a time with New Zealand players giving advice.

He was also sought after for press and radio.

In all, we did six radio shows and had a press conference at every venue.

Our first three games were all good and although winning by small margins, gave a far more polished display than our opponents.

It was obvious to us that the long travel (we did 1,500 miles by bus) would tire the players and with the added tight playing schedule, we would need to be as happy as we could and extend our training periods into as many variations as possible.

This we did and the results of the next five games tell the story. We found the code in New Zealand on the up-surge.

Due to TV, the popularity has risen and the high calibre of the administrators was most noticeable. Schools enjoy a good relationship with the FA and although they too have their problems, it was evident that the game is moving forward at a fast pace.

It was pleasing to see radio station managers, solicitors, headmasters and the like taking an active part in the running of the game.

I attended two Association meetings and was impressed with their desire to get the game moving forward.

We saw three top division games and although not perhaps as good as some Sydney matches, it was played with ability and enthusiasm.

Players in this grade are not paid anything like the fees in Sydney and we had the feeling that clubs were first of all developing grounds, coaching and administration before engaging highly paid players.

One player that impressed us was Vic Pollard.

This young New Zealand cricketer, gave two fine performances that we saw and was added to their World Cup squad before we left.

They are well advanced of Australia in this regard and their three selectors are busy up and down the two islands taking stock of the talent on the field.

Their coaching program was one to be admired and with the help of Rothmans, they have set up area coaching in all parts.

GOOD GROUNDS

Grounds were the best we have ever seen.

Facilities are better than on any Sydney ground and it was to their credit that they look to this problem first when admitting clubs into competitions.

I have mentioned the referees in earlier reports and only add that much could be learned by inviting some of them to officiate in Australian fixtures in the future.

We were very pleased to see FIFA referee Ken

Aston at one of our games and to listen to his comments.

He stated that the Australians played football equal to that seen in any country he had visited to date and that when Australians realised this they would reap the benefits.

We have heard this many times and again point it out in the hope that those concerned will take notice.

Our last game against the South Island will be remembered by all those who went on tour.

Down two nil after 20 minutes, the NSW team played the best football seen on the Island.

The game was given live radio coverage by the N.Z. Broadcasting Corporation and a crowd of some 1,500 showed their appreciation in an uncertain manner.

We won the game 4-2 after seeing four goals that would have made Puskas or Charlton proud.

REFRESHING

What a shame we have no film of them.

Many people will feel that such tours are wasteful and financially unjustified.

I can only answer that by asking you to take a look at the players in a few years' time.

I would be surprised if you do not see at least three playing for Australia in the

future. It would be unfair to single out players that played better than others.

On a tour such as this, playing eight games in 16 days requires the efforts of the whole party and not one let us down.

We did select a player as the best on tour and this was considered on all round ability both on and off the field.

At a later date his name will be announced.

Perhaps as tour manager and at the same time secretary of the NSW amateur body, I should ask you to give consideration in the future of encouraging the New Zealand FA to send a team to Australia.

Their organising ability and genuine desire to see soccer go ahead was a pleasant and refreshing change.

On what we saw in New Zealand, and bearing in mind the present position in Australian soccer, they will certainly press claims for advancement into World Cup fixtures — and deserve to be successful.

Our tour of New Zealand was highly successful. Australian soccer has again made its presence known to the outside world and left its mark.

I am proud that the State of NSW helped do this and sincerely trust that the efforts were not in vain.

More goals come towards the end

The chart below looks innocent enough; just figures which add up to some sort of statistics. And statistics, as they say, can prove anything . . .

It's not quite as simple as that. The figures show precisely when the goals fell in the 132 championship matches.

Let's see the chart first.

Min.	1-11	12-22	Total
1-15	26	18	44
16-30	29	24	53
31-45	29	37	66
46-60	39	35	74
61-75	42	34	76
76-90	42	35	77
—	—	—	—
207	183	390	—

You don't have to be a great mathematician to see that many more goals were scored towards the end of the matches than early in the piece.

In order to study the trends, we dissected the 90 minutes duration into six equal 15-minute periods.

This shows, for example, that while only 44 goals were scored in the first 15 minutes of the matches, 77 were netted in the last quarter hour period.

The figures 1-11 and 12-22 denote the first half and the second half of the 22-round championship.

What do these figures prove? Maybe nothing at all. But the trend is quite obvious: as players tire, towards the end of the mat-

—EDITORIAL— Meeting that can build or wreck

Next week's special ASF Council meeting in Sydney seriously threatens to turn into a pub brawl.

The schisms which have existed in the ASF now have an added piquancy in the form of personal conflicts, if not hatreds.

What's really involved? According to Victoria and NSW, the so-called "smaller States" are making mockery of the majority rule in the ASF and, through the craziest voting machine ever set-up, can effectively rule soccer throughout Australia.

This, as Victoria and NSW have recently agreed, is no longer acceptable to them — and they demand a drastic change.

On the other hand, the "smaller States" claim that everything would work fine — if only some NSW and Victorian officials decided not to throw their weight about too much.

This newspaper has been clamouring for a reorganisation of the ASF for at least three solid years now — long before the present critics in Sydney and Melbourne ever cared to admit that there was something wrong.

We have pointed out time and again — much to the chagrin of those then in power — that the whole structure of the ASF is archaic, cumbersome and unintelligent.

But even the present ASF secretary, now under attack from some quarters, has been desperately trying to modernise the organisation.

Some two years ago he prepared a massive document showing just how the thing can be done; surely it's not his fault if most executives never bothered to read it.

Let's state it clearly once again: the ASF must reorganise itself or face further trouble and years of stagnation.

To bring about the necessary changes which could finally give us a progressive, streamlined national management, all delegates to the Sydney meeting should be fully conscious of their obligations and responsibilities.

If our officials want to go down in Australian sporting history as petty little men whose sole preoccupation was with their personal interests or egos, all they have to do is continue in the same vein that they have been going for years.

But if they regard the future of Australian soccer as something slightly more important than their personal images, club or State interest — the Sydney meeting is the place for them to show their goodwill.

NORTHERNERS NOT KEEN TO JOIN SYDNEY

— By PAUL MACKENZIE in Newcastle —
The story by Keith Gilmour in your September 6 issue cannot go unchallenged.

This is obviously a case of a little knowledge being a dangerous thing.

Keith Gilmour states that "sporadic reports come to hand that Adamstown may play Wallsend in an exhibition game in Tamworth and that, after the season is over, Newcastle emissaries may visit North Coast, Northern Tablelands and North Western towns to see what cooks in soccer there".

The facts are that Hamilton-Azzuri had teams in Tamworth last weekend during which preliminary finals were played in Newcastle.

Already Northern NSW Federation officials have visited the centres mentioned to see "what cooks".

Then we come to the statement that "having invented Northern NSW, do we (presumably Sydney interests) regard the division of the State into two parts as final?"

Sydney interests did not "invent Northern NSW".

The facts are that Northern soccer, completely fed up with the inept Sydney-based administration, demanded the right to control its own affairs and the Sydney interests fell over themselves to agree so they could be rid of the North.

"What if, in the near future, the State is fully divided and two Newcastle clubs were

to be accepted to the NSW Federation First Division?", asks Keith Gilmour.

Take it as certain that no Northern club would want to join the NSW Federation First Division while it can remain affiliated with a sane, sensible and progressive administration — so different to that controlling the game in Southern NSW and which if Sydney reports are to be believed, is threatening withdrawal from the national body if it, and its Melbourne friends, cannot gain control of the national body.

Then there is this — "Due to the very limited drawing power of Newcastle clubs under the present set-up whereby only Hamilton-Azzuri and one or two more clubs draw well, this could come to pass. The rest of the clubs couldn't draw peanuts."

I don't know from where Keith Gilmour gets his information but he should check his facts.

His claims are wide off the mark.

There is, indeed, a readiness in the North to engage in an inter-city competition but on EQUAL terms, not with Southern NSW trying to dominate the position, as it seems to want to dominate everything else in the game.

• For latest reorganisation in Newcastle, see story page 8.

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GRAND FINAL BERTH AT STAKE IN APIA-HELLENIC CLASH

— By LOU GAUTIER —

With all four teams still having a chance for a Grand Final appearance, Sunday's double-header is certain to be an explosive affair.

For at least two teams, Hakoah and Pan Hellenic, nothing less than a win would do; for Hakoah it has to be a good one, at that.

APIA may scrape in with a draw while Prague are in the Grand Final even if they lose by two goals to Hakoah.

It will be interesting to see how many of the recently injured players will be patched up for Sunday's clashes: Blanco, Hoggart, Edmunds, Gardiner, McKinnon, Wentzel and Johnston have been casualties in the last few weeks, causing considerable concern to their respective coaches.

Another question to be answered on Sunday will be whether the huge camp of Greek fans have abandoned their darlings for good or will give them another chance to redeem themselves.

If they turn up again in full force, the atmosphere for the APIA v. Pan Hellenic tie will be super-charged.

This is how we see the prospects for the two matches:

Prague v. Hakoah

Despite their marked improvement last week, Hakoah face an uphill task in Sunday's early game when only a clear-cut victory will keep their Grand Final prospects alive.

Hakoah could have gained a vital extra point against APIA last Sunday and, in many aspects, were unlucky to only share the points.

Prague, now in the box seat, go into this match with a marked psychological advantage as their berth in the Grand Final next week is almost secure.



LES SCHEINFUG
(Prague)

Only a most unlikely set of circumstances can rob Prague of appearing in their first Grand Final since 1960.

After making mincemeat of Pan Hellenic, Prague can justifiably feel confident about Sunday's outcome.

Prague again proved they have a pace superior to that of any of their opponents and also the best team-work in Sydney.

Playing a man short for most of the second half, to boot, they also showed they have spirit and courage to spare — all the qualities that go into making them Sydney's most exciting team.

The blossoming talents — and they are potentially enormous — of Gary Manuel and, to a lesser degree, Tracey and Wilcox, combined with the experience, savoir-faire and inspiration provided by seasoned campaigners Scheinflug, Blanco and Gauto, without omitting the solid, workmanlike Harcombe, Zeman and Hoggart, who all fit their assigned roles to a set pattern which bears the stamp of coach Venglos, makes Prague the most complete team in the competition.

Hakoah, as they may find out at their expense on Sunday, are not so balanced. If it hadn't been for their Watkiss-inspired brief second-half burst they may have found it impossible to score again last weekend.

Their defence may strike a lot of trouble against the mobile, clever Prague forwards, continually on the prowl, always foraging on openings and goals.

Hakoah will be compelled to throw caution to the winds.

What they are after is a convincing win — a very tall order against Prague in their current devastating goalscorer's vein (nine goals in two matches).

Though Hakoah may have found a more than useful winger in Scot Rutherford, and though their defence will again be hard to out-manoeuvre, we can't go past Prague.

They might not score five, not even four goals again, but at the final whistle they should be comfortably installed as round-robin winners.

APIA v. Pan Hellenic

This is the match the vast majority of the expected 20,000 crowd will have come to see on Sunday.

This is without a doubt the most important clash ever between Sydney's top two draw-cards (though APIA's once appreciable support has been visibly missing ever since the round-robin started).

With a berth in the Grand Final — the sixth consecutive for APIA and a first-ever for Pan Hellenic — at stake, there should be action galore here.

We can't guarantee that soccer for the connoisseurs will be on the Sportsground menu, but for sheer tension, excitement and atmosphere this should be the highlight of the season.

Pan Hellenic's hiding last week, which shattered their goal-average makes it absolutely imperative that they win.

APIA, depending on the result of the early game, might only need a draw to once again reach the Grand Final.

For both teams, however, it is always a matter of prestige whenever they clash, even when there is nothing at stake.

All the more reason to anticipate on Sunday a titanic, no-beg-pardons tussle which could be in doubt until the very last minute, Pan Hellenic's collapse last week notwithstanding.

Just as Hakoah's form against Pan Hellenic was too bad to be true, it is unlikely that Pan Hellenic can play again so badly as against Prague.

APIA go into the match with a tremendous edge in attack, where they can rely on the deadly accuracy of Giacometti, still the undisputed master of the dead-ball, the exuberance of Campbell, the immaculate technique of Campagna and the aggressiveness of Archie Blue.

Pan Hellenic, who have been dragging a disorganized, unimaginative forward-line like a chain all year long,

are hopelessly outclassed in this department.

The gap is much narrower in defence where little separates the teams.

It's obvious that Westwater, Loukanidis, Blitz, Cole and McCulloch, Pan Hellenic's key players, must play a "blinder" to fulfil their supporters' dream of a Grand Final appearance.

However, we feel that this will still be a dream on Sunday night as the steadier APIA should carry too much power and pace all round for the strangely inconsistent Pan Hellenic.

ROUND-ROBIN COMP. TABLE

Prague	1	1	9	4	3
APIA	—	2	6	6	2
P. Hellenic	1	—	1	5	2
Hakoah	—	1	2	3	1

PROBABLE TEAMS

PRAGUE v. HAKOAH

KING	1. FUZES
HARCOMBE	2. STEWART
TRACEY	3. HILLSDON
BLACKER	4. WALSH
ZEMAN	5. MARNOCH
BLANCO	6. YAAGER
GAUTO	7. RUTHERFORD
G. MANUEL	8. SPILAREWICZ
SCHEINFLUG	9. WATKISS
WILCOX	10. BAARTZ
ARMYTAGE	11. JONES

Referee: H. PARSONS.

APIA v. PAN HELLENIC

TAYLOR	1. CLARKE
VAN BLERK	2. JOHNSTON
ACKERLEY	3. HIGNETT
HUGHES	4. McCULLOCH
SAMBROOK	5. COLE
BOTTALICO	6. WESTWATER
MC KINNON	7. LOGAN
CAMPANA	8. SMITH
BLUE	9. LOUKANIDIS
CAMPBELL	10. KARYANNIS
GIACOMETTI	11. BLITZ

Referee: A. BOSKOVIC.

Prague put on classic show, APIA fade out

— By PAUL DEAN —

APIA v. HAKOAH 2-2 (2-2, 2-0)

Rather amazingly, Sydney's great fight-back team, APIA this time got their own medicine back from Hakoah who were allowed to pull an almost hopelessly lost match out of the fire.

After the first 20 minutes the APIA fans were getting ready for a major rout with visions of a wipe-out.

But then, things started to go against them. First McKinnon had to be replaced, after an injury, and then Wentzel became a passenger, hobbling on the wing.

Although neither had what can be termed a great day, their absence certainly disrupted the APIA attack.

Hakoah can thank John Watkiss for the point; it was his head actually that saved them the point.

Although having a quiet day, Watkiss twice literally rose to the occasion to peg back APIA's lead; once to head home a corner and the second time to set up newcomer H. Rutherford for a thundering equaliser.

As the match wore on, the excitement perhaps increased but the football deteriorated and nerves became frayed.

Hakoah, in extra time, had more of the ball and looked the slightly better team.

Scorers: Giacometti 7 min.

(penalty) and 19 min. for APIA; Watkiss 53 min. and Rutherford 55 min. for Hakoah.

Knowing the tremendous value of an extra point, they went all out for a third goal without ever really looking likely to grab it.

It was a fair result after a tense 110 minutes — a sort of Pyrrhic draw, so to say, which may eventually cost both teams a place in the Grand Final.

In APIA we liked Van Blerk, Hughes, Bottalico, and Campagna and in Hakoah Walsh, Marnoch and Yaager.

Rutherford's debut went well as he is undoubtedly a fine player — but what ever has given Hakoah the impression that he is a speedster, as his reputation preceded him from Scotland?

Hakoah: Fuzes; Fekete, Marnoch, Hillsdon; Walsh, Yaager, H. Rutherford, Spilarewicz, Watkiss, Baartz, Jones.

APIA: Taylor; Van Blerk, Sambrook, Ackerley, Hughes, Bottalico; McKinnon (Campagna), Campbell, Wentzel, Blue, Giacometti.

Referee: H. Parsons.

PRAGUE v. PAN HELLENIC 5-0 (1-0)

Prague's grand display must have delighted all true lovers of good football, regardless of club affiliation.

Or at least it should have: pity those thousands of Greek fans began their sad exodus some 20 minutes before the end, silently abandoning the same heroes of theirs they had chaired off the field only one week earlier.

This time Prague deserved some special tribute, some sort of public acclaim for showing once again to the doubters that in football skill is at the highest premium.

It took surprisingly long for Prague to settle down; in the first half they were clever only in patches.

However, after Manuel's first and Prague's second goal, they began to remorselessly grind Pan Hellenic into the ground.

Even without their star prompter, Blanco, replaced at the interval, the thoughtful, precise interpassing of Prague and the many well rehearsed attacking moves completely stupefied their opponents.

Prague, without a doubt, are the most imaginative of all Sydney teams; they have a purposely cultivated flair for improvising, for the unorthodox.

Referee: H. Parsons.

And yet, everything they do fits into a masterplan and becomes part of a whole.

In sharp contrast, Pan Hellenic's tactics merely "happens", without preconception and even premeditation; everything they do is highly predictable, if not fully expected.

This sort of football, at its best, can get them results and even victories — but what a pity they have never bothered to work out some movements which would just once show a departure from their orthodoxy.

Of course, Pan Hellenic will never play stylish football; the temperament of their fans is not conducive for that.

But even within their limitations they could surely put to better use the craftiness of a Blitz, the dash of a Smith and the polish of a Loukanidis.

As it was, the last 30 minutes of the match was merely a many-fingered Prague exercise played to some inaudible Dvorak tune, culminating in an unexpected crescendo when Hoggart, earlier savagely kicked into passenger status, headed home their glorious fifth goal.

Prague: King; Harcombe, Blacker, Zeman, Tracey, Blanco (Lissing), Scheinflug, Gauto, Manuel, Wilcox, Hoggart.

Pan Hellenic: Clarke; Omeros, Cole, Hignett; McCulloch, Loukanidis; Smith, Blitz, Westwater, Petrov, Logan (Hanson).

Scorers: Hoggart 17 and 90 mins., Manuel 49 and 74 mins., Wilcox 81 min.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 18095 (double-header).

SMALLGOODS

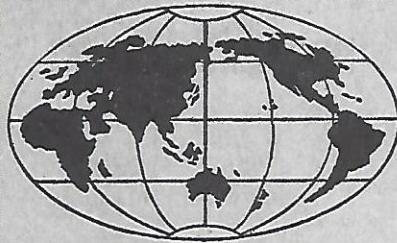


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ROUND THE WORLD

Olympic finalists move in

All but four of the 16 teams in the final Olympic tournament have now moved into the Olympic village in Mexico City. The soccer squads were included in their country's first contingents which arrived in Mexico to prepare for the Games. The squads will train in Mexico City until October 1 when those not drawn in the Mexico City group will head for Puebla, Leon and Guadalajara, depending on their venues.

New star born

The 23-year-old Ferencvaros forward Zoltan Varga is tipped to be the star of the Mexican Olympic series. Varga, said to be the technically most accomplished Hungarian player, recently scored all four of his team's goals in a club match — three of them described to be in the "Pele-class".

Swiss get tough

The Swiss FA laid down the law regarding the punishment players can expect this year for having their name taken by the referee: the first time they get a warning, the second time a \$25 fine, the third time a week's suspension. Whenever a player is sent off because of a rough or brutal foul, the minimum suspension is two weeks, for hitting an opponent they will get three weeks.

Amended European draws stand

Despite violent protests by the Russians and their Warsaw Pact allies, the UEFA executive committee voted 7-2, with one abstention (Jira of Czechoslovakia), not to revert to the original European Cup draws. The amended draws, which were arranged to prevent Western European teams meeting Warsaw Pact representatives in the first rounds, will stand. In the second round of both Champions' and Cup Winners' Cup, however, the UEFA will revert to a straight-out draw, irrespective of the eventual pairings. FIFA executives Bars (Hungary) and Ryashenstev (USSR) voted against the amended draw but were outvoted by fellow-members Wiederkehr (Switzerland), Crahaye (Belgium), Franchi (Italy), Powell (Wales), Brodd (Sweden), Collar (Spain) and Cazal Ribeiro (Portugal).

German filmmakers seek help

An interesting project is under way by the West German Television Corporation. They are planning two 45-minute programs on the growth of the European Cup — an up-to-date history since its birth 13 years ago, with film clips of many of its outstanding matches and events. Negotiations are in progress to interest the other European television networks in co-operating with production and distribution.

Gabriel Hanot Cup?

There is a move afoot to rename the European Champions' Cup, the Gabriel Hanot Cup, in honor of the famous French soccer writer who died three weeks ago at the age of 80. Hanot was instrumental in creating the European Cup, which his newspaper L'EQUIPE, launched by calling a meeting of European club presidents in Paris in 1954. Anderlecht, the Belgian champions, have asked the UEFA to attach the name of its best known initiator to the European Cup as from this season and the European body is almost certain to agree to the request. It's interesting to note that despite the mediocre state of French soccer, both the World Cup (Jules Rimet Trophy) and the European championship for national teams (Henri Delaunay Cup) carry the names of French officials.

The American professional club, Washington Whips FC, want to follow in the footsteps of the Dallas Tornadoes. Later this year they are planning a world tour to prepare next season. The tour will take in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, and Australasia, if the Australian Federation and New Zealand Association are agreeable. The Australian section of the tour would take place early in January.

● The Dutch West Indies (Surinam) have instituted professionalism though they only have 3,800 registered soccer players. The move was adopted to stop their players from moving to the USA.

● Coventry City, now managed by former Manchester United star Noel Cantwell, are after Tottenham's Scottish forward Gilzean, priced at \$210,000 by Spurs.

● Fritz Kominek, one of Austria's greatest players of the post-war period, has returned home after 17 years abroad in France, Holland and Switzerland. Kominek now manages GAK, the former club of Herbert Ninus.

● Hannes Loehr, West Germany's 26-year-old international forward and the leading Bundesliga goalscorer last season, is still convalescing in a sanatorium where he is being treated for lung infection.

● Acting on behalf of Benfica, who lost last year's final to Manchester United in England, the Portuguese FA has asked the UEFA to stage all future European Cup finals in a neutral country.

● The 1967-68 Italian First and Second Division championships, it was revealed officially last week, attracted a total of 10,521,000 spectators.

● Torpedo Moscow will play the final of the Russian Cup on November 8 against Paltakher Tashkent in Moscow.

● Lucien Muller, the French international half-back who played for Barcelona and Real Madrid for the past six seasons, has rejoined his old French club, Reims, this season.

● Nottingham Forest are playing their home matches at Notts County's ground until their burnt-out grandstand is rebuilt. The Notts ground can accommodate 48,000 spectators though the club is only in Fourth Division.

● As a result of a financial dispute over broadcasting terms, there will be no soccer on either Italian TV or radio for at least three weeks.

Sparta Prague's curt "nyet"

Some "normality" may have returned to unhappy Czechoslovakia, but no Russian gesture of friendship, however well-meaning, is being accepted yet by any section of Czechoslovak life, including the soccer clubs. When one Soviet army contingent invited Sparta Prague to play a friendly game, the invitation was immediately and coldly rejected. No one in Czechoslovakia is prepared to be that friendly towards the occupiers. The Czech competition resumes this weekend and the national team will go ahead and meet Denmark in a World Cup elimination match in Copenhagen next week, but it's still not known whether the Olympic team will be able to compete in Mexico.

● Spartak Trnava of Czechoslovakia are determined to play their Mitropa Cup final against Red Star Belgrade. The final, which was postponed because of the Czechoslovakian invasion, is likely to be played in the usual home-and-away fashion at the end of October.

● Petar Ciric, Yugoslavia's coach at the 1962 World Cup in Chile, has joined the top Turkish club, Besiktas. Ciric was also the Israeli national team coach for some time.

● The 1968-69 Greek championship starts this weekend. Four days earlier, last season's champions, AEK Athens, will have played their first round European Cup match at home against Jeunesse Esch of Luxembourg.

● Bulgaria won the first Balkans Championship for under-23 national teams in Salonika, Greece. The host country was second, Rumania third and Turkey last. Yugoslavia, the favorites, didn't take part.

● Austrian clubs are trying everything to woo spectators to their matches. In Vienna, for instance, Rapid provide free cups of coffee. Girls dressed in the club's colors circulate in the stands to cater for thirsty fans.

● Bellini, Brazil's captain when they won the 1958 World Cup, has ended up in Panama City. He captain-coaches one of the Panamanian capital's three soccer teams. The Panamanian competition is restricted to only six clubs as baseball and gridiron are this Central American country's major sports.

● Rangers have appointed Willie Thornton, a former player, as their assistant-coach. Thornton, capped 17 times for Scotland, had been managing Partick Thistle for the last nine seasons after five years with Dundee.

● Czechoslovakia is without a national team coach. Frantisek Bufka, their newly-appointed coach from LASK (Austria), had second thoughts about returning to his unhappy country and joined VfB Stuttgart in West Germany instead.

Charlton signed till '76

Bobby Charlton has signed a unique contract with Manchester United. United's ace forward last week re-signed for eight years. His contract expires in 1976 and is the longest ever offered to any English player. Charlton told interviewers he was hopeful he would see the eight years through as an active player. He'll be 33 years old in 1976 and said he was reasonably optimistic about breaking Bill Wright's record of 105 caps for England (his tally now stands at 87) and also setting new club appearance figures.

SCOREBOARD

WORLD CUP (elimination): 2-1; Ajaccio v. Sedan 2-0; Holland v. Luxembourg 2-0 (Rotterdam).

HUNGARY: Ferencvaros v. Honved 1-0; Ujpest v. MTK 2-1; Szombathelyi v. Dunauvaros (Hungary) 0-0 in Budapest. Leeds, 1-0 winners in home in the first leg, win the Cup.

FAIR CITIES' CUP (1968-69 final): Leeds United (England) v. Ferencvaros (Hungary) 0-0 in Budapest. Leeds, 1-0 winners in home in the first leg, win the Cup.

FAIR CITIES' CUP (1968-69 series, first round): Newcastle United v. Feyenoord (Holland) 4-0; DOS Utrecht (Holland) v. Dundalk (Ireland) 1-1; Arias Salnikon (Greece) v. Hibernian (Malta) 1-0; Wacker Innsbruck (Austria) v. Eintracht Frankfurt (West Germany) 2-2.

RUMANIA: Dinamo Bucharest v. Crisul Oradea 2-0; University Craiova v. Steaua Bucharest 1-1; UT Arad v. Rapid Bucharest 1-0; Petrolul Ploesti v. FC Arges 2-1; Farul Constanta v. Dinamo Bacau 1-0; University Cluj v. Vagoul Arad 2-1; Progresul Bucharest v. Juul 1-0; Iassy v. ASA postponed. **Table:** University Cluj, Farul Constanta 7; Dinamo Bucharest, UT Arad, Progresul Bucharest, University Craiova 6.

BULGARIA: CSKA v. Borodobrjik v. Lokomotiva 1-0; Plovdiv v. Slavia 3-0; Miners v. Botov Vratsa 3-2; Donnay v. Bourgas 5-1; Cernomorev v. Trakia 2-1; Makrek v. Spartak Pleven 2-1. **Table:** CSKA 9; Plovdiv 8; Spartak Sofia, Levski 7.

EAST GERMANY: Karl-Marxstadt v. Jena 1-0; Zwickerau v. Lokomotive Leipzig 3-0; Dynamo Berlin v. Rostock 1-3; Magdeburg, v. Wismut 6-3; Riesa v. Vorwärts Berlin 1-0; Chemie Leipzig v. Halberstadt 3-1; Erfurt v. Union Berlin 0-0. **Table:** Magdeburg, Chemie Leipzig, Wismut 6; Rostock, Union Berlin 5.

FRANCE: St. Etienne v. Nantes 3-1; Nice v. Lyon 2-1; Strasbourg v. Red Star 1-0; Rennes v. Metz 2-0; Rouen v. Bordeaux 2-1; Nimes v. Bastia 2-1; Valenciennes v. Sochaux 2-1; Valenciennes v. Sochaux 2-1.

SPAIN: Pontevedra v. Valencia 2-0; Zaragoza v. Atletico Bilbao 0-2; Malaga v. Coruna 3-1; Granada v. Sabadell 0-1; Real Madrid v. Espanol 3-1; Elche v. Cordoba 4-1; Las Palmas v. Atletico Madrid 2-1; Barcelona v. Real Sociedad 0-0.

SWITZERLAND: Grasshoppers v. Biel 6-2; Lugano v. Zurich 3-1; Lucerne v. Bellinzona 0-0; Servette v. Winterthur 4-1; Sion v. FC Basel 1-1; St. Gallen v. Lausanne 2-4; Young Boys v. Chaux-de-Fonds 1-1. **Table:** Lausanne 8; Servette 7; Zurich, Young Boys 5.

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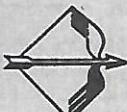
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MELBOURNE PAGE... MELBOURNE PAGE... MELBOURNE PAGE...

MINNOWS DEAD KEEN TO KEEP UP CUP RUN

— From BOB LOW —

All four Dockerty Cup quarterfinals will be played at Olympic Park with double-headers on both Saturday and Sunday.

The kick-off for the Croatia v. Wilhelmina first game on Saturday will be at 1 p.m. and on Sunday the first game kicks-off at 1.15.

Our previews:

Sunshine City v.

Elwood Austria

What a battle this should be with this First Division pair battling it out for a place in the semis. Sunshine, the shock side of the competition in 1967, will probably find that Elwood Austria will provide much tougher competition than Juventus did. Sunshine to win.

Dandenong v. George X

Vocal support from their fans seem to inspire George Cross, so if they turn up in sufficient numbers they could have a head start.

GIANTS BEATEN IN CUP SHOCKS

— By BOB LOW —

Juventus, Lions and Polonia all koyed by First Division sides have kissed goodbye to the 1968 Dockerty Cup after a weekend of real shocks.

One of the minor clubs is assured of a place in the semifinals with the clash between Sunshine City and Elwood Austria.

Juventus provided the biggest shock. Losing an early goal to Sunshine, they conceded a penalty which was converted after half-time.

Before the finish, Millar, their best player, gave away a free-kick and suffered the irony of heading the Sunshine cross past his own 'keeper to make it a real flop day for Juventus.

Elwood Austria came from behind to dump the much fancied Lions who seemed to take things a bit too easy against the lesser opposition and ended the Essendon side's hopes of making this their best year to date.

Polonia never recovered from the shock of losing two goals in the first four minutes against Dandenong and although they had chances galore after this to level matters and even shoot to the front, they could only come up with one miserable goal.

In the other games Nick McCallum, the top State League scorer, with a brilliant two-goal sortie pulled the game out of the fire for George Cross who were at one stage 2-0 down against Melbourne.

Hakoh with a shocking display figured in a no scoring draw against JUST at the end of 90 minutes, then lost three goals without reply in the extra time, Hellas proved too good for Slavia in a keenly contested

Reprise likely

Nearly a month ago following disturbances at their home game with Melbourne, the South Melbourne Hellas Soccer Club were fined \$100, ordered to lodge a \$1,000 cash bond with the Federation and instructed to provide additional police at both their home and away games.

The order concerning the cash bond and the additional police were to be in force until the end of 1969.

Hellas appealed against the Disciplinary Committee's decision on the grounds that they were not notified of the charges and no written referee's report was at hand.

The Appeals Board upheld the Hellas claim and referred the case back to the Disciplinary Committee giving the Greek club the right to answer the charges and prepare their case.

The Disciplinary Committee met last week but so far have not made their findings known.

The whole affair has been mishandled, shelved and duckshoved and it will come as no surprise if the original sentence is squashed.

However, Dandenong, probably best of the Metropolitan qualifiers, have only to repeat their display against Polonia to be in with a real chance. George Cross to win.

SM Hellas v. JUST

The Footscray side whipped Hellas not so long back with a late two-goal burst. Hellas have shown improvement since then and will be flat out to rid themselves of the complex that they are a dud cup-side. SM-Hellas to win.

CUP SQUADS

SM-Hellas: Dandrakis, Kelly, High, Bedford, Roussis, Micic, Deeming, Pyrgolis, Kamboropolous, Gorrie, Damaniakos, Ackerley, Adamzakas.

Sunshine City: Johnston, movic.

JUST: S. Kazi, Fearn, Handricks, Mladenovic, Rice, Cirkovic, A. Kazi, Mihailovic, Zoraja, Buljevic, Brkic, Adamic.

George X: Vojtek, Glaser, Hargrave, Williams.

Hellas: Vane, Egmond, Plunkett, Vowles, Thomson, Adams, Bibby, Dewitt, Keulen, Duignan, Atkins, Speierman, Wyatt, O'Toole.

Dandenong City: Augustini, Guthrie, Fletcher, D. Parker, Bence, R. Parker, McKinley, Maley, Lowen, Holcombe, Hall, Gray, Oxenham.

Croatia: Kovacek, D. McCormick, Adlam, McIntrye, Kay, Bot, Rau, Gunn, McDavis, Vojtek, Glaser, Hargrave, Williams.

Elwood Austria: Johnstone, Lovell, Gaskins, Hargreaves, Williams.

Sutherland, Wests seek final berth

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

Auburn confirmed they were worthy Second Division champions by convincingly beating Bankstown 3-1 in last Saturday's round-robin match at Macarthur Park, Granville.

Auburn lead the series with four points and seem certain of a Grand final berth.

Bankstown, with two straight losses are definitely out, and Western Suburbs and Sutherland, both on two points, will know their fate after this weekend's matches against Bankstown and Auburn respectively.

Last Saturday's matches:

Western Suburbs v. Sutherland 2-0

Wests' well drilled and fitter players were too solid all round for a dejected Sutherland team.

Sutherland, denied a certain goal in the seventh minute when Merton made a spectacular save off Cuciti from point-blank range, never came back into the game and looked a beaten side all the way.

Despite the promptings of Gordon Shrubsole and Alan Griffiths in the half-back line, the Sutherland forwards were never dangerous.

In contrast, Wests were always menacing, and with more accuracy could have romped home with a bigger score.

Wests' halfback line of Bijkerk, Holmes and Di Santi, in that order, was

the mainstay of the side, but it was Peter Pont who assured Wests of victory, scoring the first goal and setting up the other for Griffin to seal the match.

Western Suburbs: Merton; Bastion, Apostolidis; Holmes, Bijkerk, Di Santi; Cassidy, Harrison, Woods, Pont, Griffin.

Sutherland: Root; Paterson, Shuttlewood; Shrubsole, Turner, Griffiths, Davidson, Cacciola, Martin, Roche, Cuciti.

Referee: K. Lockrey.

Auburn v. Bankstown 3-1

From the kick-off Auburn took the initiative, and after only seven minutes of play, centre-forward Adam Moffatt scored the best goal of the day in a solo effort to the delight of the crowd.

Young and talented left-winger, Bobby Goose, equalised for Bankstown in the 18th minute and the "Towns" could have snatched the lead soon after had Tansley not incredibly missed the easiest of scoring chances.

Two goals by Alex Smith in the 35th minute and Mal O'Neill right on halftime clinched the match for Auburn who relaxed after the interval.

This match was a triumph for niggly left-back Russell Haggett who displayed superb ball distribution.

Auburn: Brommett; Smith, Haggett; Entwistle, Thompson, Keen; Allen, McKnight, Moffatt, Bracegirdle, O'Neill.

Bankstown: Friedl (Wilkens); Fitzgerald, Attwood; Brack, Hinksman, Madden; Tansley, White, Bamforth, Clarke, Goose.

Referee: M. Buchanan.

Crowd: 750 (double-header).

THIS WEEKEND

In the early game, the unpredictable Western Suburbs clash with unlucky Bankstown, who have yet to win a match.

Bankstown, who led the competition most of the way, struck trouble towards the end and have yet to field a full team in this series.

But the chances are that the side will be at full

strength on Saturday with the return of John Jamison, Alan Sheldrick and Hans Friedl, and a do-or-die struggle is expected.

Wests are likely to field the same side that beat Sutherland, but must improve further to win narrowly — as they probably will.

The late match between Auburn and Sutherland is by no means a foregone conclusion as Sutherland are still capable of giving the champions a hard tussle.

However, it all depends on the composition of Sutherland's team, which is bound to undergo major changes.

Regular centre-half John O'Reilly is almost certain to replace Turner and Bob O'Brian will be recalled to the forward-line.

Auburn will have only one change with the inclusion of coach John Nowacki in attack in place of Ken Bracegirdle, and should win a close match.

ADELAIDE NEWS

Latecomers may play a big part

— From ALLAN CRISP —

Three recent additions to the SA squad could play vital roles in the Federation Cup semifinals to be decided tonight (Friday September 20) and tomorrow.

Barry Reynolds and Tony Pike (Burnside-Budapest) and Alex Zurawski (Polonia), have been added to the State team to play a combined Whyalla side at Whyalla on Sunday (September 22).

Veterans Eddy Typek and Henry Manka split Hellas wide open with their constructive passes, but the most refreshing aspect was the damaging part played by Alex Zurawski.

The tall, well-built youngster is a mid-field man for his club, but has obviously been chosen to represent the State as a stopper.

Zurawski will probably take over the mantle vacated by former SA captain, Nilo Rusalen who hasn't resolved his dispute with Juventus coach, Mario Corti.

Polonia have two valid reasons to be confident of the outcome of their encounter with Austria.

Polonia defeated Austria 5-1 in the first round league clash and made it a double with a 3-2 second round win.

Polonia have two valid reasons to be confident of the outcome of their encounter with Austria.

Polonia utilised a clever mixture of long and short passes to disrupt the normally composed Hellas defence.

Second Division champions, Budapest played superbly to eliminate Beograd last week and will be a difficult opponent for Juventus.

Budapest outpaced and outplayed Beograd and would have won by a wider margin but for injuries to John Huider and James Connell.

Juventus will have benefited from last week's spell and are my choice to qualify for the final together with Polonia.

MEDAL TO JONES BOY

Rab Jones, Beograd and former SA utility player,

won the West End Medal for the "best and fairest

player" of 1968.

Jones polled 29 votes

with Terry Wetton (Australia) in second place with 22 votes.

DIVISION II

Auburn	2	—	4	1	4
Wests	1	—	1	2	1
Sutherland	1	—	1	2	3
Bankstown	—	—	2	2	5

SYDNEY PROGRAM

THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Second Division Play-Offs

Western Suburbs v. Bankstown — Macarthur Park, 1.15 p.m.
Auburn v. Sutherland — Macarthur Park, 3.00 p.m.
(Early game at 11.35 a.m.: Western Suburbs v. Sutherland — Second Grade semifinal.)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

First Division Play-Offs

Hakoah v. Prague — Sportsground, 1.15 p.m.
Pan Hellenic v. APIA — Sportsground, 3.00 p.m.
(Early game at 11.35 a.m.: Prague v. South Coast — Second Grade semifinal.)

NEXT WEEKEND

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

SECOND DIVISION GRAND FINAL

at Macarthur Park at 3.00 p.m.
Early games: 11.45 a.m.: Bankstown v. Sutherland (Third Grade Final) — 1.15 p.m.: Balgownie v. Winner, Wests v. Sutherland (Second Grade Final).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

FIRST DIVISION GRAND FINAL

at the Sydney Sportsground, at 3.00 p.m.
Early games: 11.45 a.m.: St. George v. Croatia (Third Grade Final) — 1.15 p.m.: APIA v. Winner, Prague v. SCU (Second Grade Final).

NEWCASTLE FILLS UP TOP TWO DIVISIONS

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Newcastle will operate First and Second Division competitions of 12 clubs each in 1969.

The competitions have included 10 clubs each in a First Division game for a month.

Off the field, the Northern Soccer League's weekly, "Northern Soccer News" tilted away at the NSW Federation, which it has dubbed as the "Southern NSW Federation."

The North feels apparently that Sydney should have fewer Australia Cup entrants, although what it has to offer the public in lieu is hard to imagine.

Newcastle is concerned about the approaching dust-up in the Australian Federation.

The day for the tail-wagging dog in Australian soccer is long gone.

In bygone days, Newcastle held all the political cards in NSW soccer, and it was not until the NSW Federation that their grip was broken.

Obviously Newcastle must benefit as soon as NSW and Victoria get the chance to implement more modern methods in the Australian Federation, and no doubt the sooner this is recognised the sooner their own best interests will be served.

The North struck a real problem in implementing its match of the day system, in that with Weston's home game being transferred to Adamstown Oval, the Mainland coalfields were left

READERS' LETTERS

PRaise FOR REFEREES

Being an avid soccer follower I would like to praise the high standard of some of our referees this season.

This has been a reasonably good year for soccer, and I have formed the opinion that this is mainly due to an improved attitude towards the interpretation of the laws governing the game.

It is to be hoped that this standard will continue in future for the benefit of both players and spectators and the good of the game.

Referees of the calibre of Parsons, Boskovic, Lockrey, Jones and the two new faces, Naylor and Rampley, are good for the game.

I would, through your newspaper, like to confirm or deny the rumor that referee Peter Rampley is likely to switch to what some people believe is the only game; Rugby League.

Surely, we should not let any referee with such potential disappear from the only "true football."

Keep up the good work, boys!

J. A. Harrington,
Sydney.

I am writing this letter as a supporter of Warringah Saints Soccer Club and I must say the Referees Appointments Board really does an excellent job in their selection of their referees for the amateur finals.

I watched the final between Warringah Saints

Just average

Just how good was the overall standard of the championship?

If our weekly match ratings are any guide and they are as good as any, probably better — the general standard was slightly below average.

Of the 132 matches 16 were rated with two stars, 86 with three stars, 44 with four stars and only six with five stars.

These were: Hakoah v. Prague, South Coast v. APIA, Prague v. Hakoah, Pan Hellenic v. APIA, South Coast v. Polonia and Prague v. Pan Hellenic.

In other words, only six of the 12 teams figured in matches which we rated as very good; six — Croatia, Yugal, Canterbury, Melita, St. George and Manly — have missed out.

Pleasingly enough, not one match drew the "horror" rating of one star; less pleasingly, none received the surefire sign of excellence, the six stars. (In 1967 there were no one-star or six-star matches, either.)

— P. D.



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